

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A wear assembly for an excavator comprising:
a base component fixed to the excavator and including a nose;
a wear component having a wearable surface and a cavity to receive the nose, the wear and base components including generally aligned holes to form an opening having a peripheral shape about an axis; and
a lock removably received in the opening for releasably holding the wear component to the base component, the lock including a body and a locking member being coupled together to form an integral unit for insertion into the opening along the axis, the locking member being movably mounted to the body for rotational movement about an the axis between a release position and a locking position, the body and the locking member cooperatively defining an outline shape about the axis with the locking member in the release position so that the lock is received within the peripheral shape of the opening when inserted therein generally in an axial direction, the locking member being at least partially outside of the ~~outline~~ peripheral shape when in the locking position such that at least part of the locking member sets opposite an inner surface formed in the opening to prevent removal of the lock from the opening, and the body and the locking member cooperatively defining an axial length that is the same in each of the release and locking positions so as to position the lock in each said hole when the lock is installed in the opening free of substantial axial pressure.

Claim 2 (canceled).

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3. (original) The wear assembly of claim 1 wherein the body includes a rigid part and a resilient part, and the resilient part engages the locking member to releasably retain the locking member in the release and locking positions.

4. (original) The wear assembly of claim 3 wherein the locking member includes a shank having a non-circular cross sectional configuration, the resilient part of the body includes a hole for receiving the shank, the resilient part is in a relaxed state when the locking member is in the release and locking positions, and the resilient part is in a stretched state when the locking member is moving between the release and locking positions.

5. (original) The wear assembly of claim 1 wherein the locking member includes a head engageable by a tool for rotating the locking member between the release and locking positions.

6. (original) The wear assembly of claim 5 wherein the head includes at least one ledge for engagement by a tool for axially pulling the lock from the opening.

7. (original) The wear assembly of claim 1 wherein the body and the locking member each includes a bearing surface, and wherein, in the locking position, the bearing surface of the body engages the wear component and the bearing surface of the locking member engages the base component.

8. (original) The wear assembly of claim 7 wherein the bearing surface of the locking member is spaced from the bearing surface of the body a first distance in the release position and a second distance in the locking

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position, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance so that the lock tightens the fit of the wear component on the base component when the locking member is moved to the locking position.

9. (previously presented) The wear assembly of claim 1 wherein the wear component includes a sidewall having an inner face and an outer face defining the thickness of the sidewall, the hole in the wear component is defined in the sidewall by a peripheral edge wall, and the peripheral edge wall has (1) a rear portion with a bearing face that extends substantially the entire distance between the inner and outer faces to contact the lock and thereby retain the wear component on the base component, and (2) a relief portion defined by (i) a stop wall having a thickness that is less than that thickness of the sidewall and (ii) a recess between the stop wall and the inner surface of the sidewall for receiving at least a portion of the locking member that extends outside of the outline shape when the locking member is moved to the locking position to thereby prevent removal of the lock from the opening.

Claims 10-14 (canceled).

15. (previously presented) A lock for releasably coupling a wear component to an excavator, the lock comprising a body and a locking member secured to the body for movement between a release position and a locking position, the locking member including a shank having a non-circular cross sectional configuration, the body including a resilient part having a hole for receiving the shank, the resilient part being in generally a relaxed state when the locking member is in the release and locking positions, and the resilient part

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being in a stretched state when the locking member is moving between the release and locking positions.

16. (previously presented) The lock of claim 15 wherein the body further includes a rigid part that defines a cavity into which the resilient part is received.

17. (previously presented) The lock of claim 16 wherein the rigid part includes a front surface and a rear surface, and the rear surface has a longer axial extension than the front surface.

18. (previously presented) The lock of claim 15 wherein the locking member includes a head engageable by a tool for rotating the locking member between the release and locking positions.

19. (original) The lock of claim 18 wherein the head includes a pair of opposite ledges for engagement by a tool for axially pulling the lock from the opening in the wear and base components.

20. (currently amended) A lock for releasably coupling a wear component to a base component for in an excavating operation equipment, the wear and base components including generally aligned holes to form a lock receiving opening, the lock comprising [[:]] a body and a locking member being coupled together to form an integral unit for insertion into the opening along an axis, the locking member being secured to the body for movement limited to rotation about the axis ~~movably mounted to the body for movement~~ between a release position and a locking position, the body and the locking member cooperatively defining an outline shape with the locking member in the release

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position for receipt in the lock receiving opening, ~~[[;]]~~ and the locking member
~~being the locking member being secured to the body for movement limited to~~
~~rotation about an axis, the locking member including a tab that is within the~~
~~outline shape when the locking member is in the release position and is at least~~
partially outside of the outline shape when the locking member is in the locking
position such that at least part of the tab locking member sets opposite an inner
surface of the wear component to prevent removal of the lock from the lock
receiving opening.

~~wherein the body and the locking member each includes a bearing~~
~~surface, and wherein, in the locking position, the bearing surface of the body~~
~~engages the wear component and the bearing surface of the locking member~~
~~engages the base component.~~

21. (currently amended) The lock of claim 20 wherein the body and the
locking member each include a bearing surface to engage one of the base and
wear components, wherein the bearing surface of the locking member is spaced
from the bearing surface of the body a first distance in the release position and a
second distance in the locking position, and wherein the second distance is
greater than the first distance so that the lock tightens the fit of the wear
component on the base component when the locking member is moved to the
locking position.

Claims 22-32 (canceled).

33. (currently amended) A lock for releasably coupling a wear
component to a mounting portion of an excavator, the wear component and

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mounting portion each defining an opening that are generally aligned for receiving the lock, the lock comprising:

a body and a locking member secured to the body for ~~movement~~ rotation between a release position and a locking position,

wherein, in the locking position, the body and the locking member bear against a first rearward-facing surface of the opening in the mounting portion and a second forward-facing surface of the opening in the wear component to hold the wear component to the mounting portion,

the body and the locking member defining a width between the first and second surfaces wherein the width each includes a bearing surface, wherein the bearing surfaces face in opposite directions, wherein, in the locking position, one of the bearing surfaces engages the wear component and the other of the bearing surfaces engages the mounting portion of the excavator, wherein the bearing surfaces are spaced apart a first distance in the release position and a second distance in the locking position, and wherein the second distance is larger in the locking position than in the release position than the first distance to tighten the fit of the wear component onto the mounting portion of the excavator.

Claims 34 and 35 (canceled).

36. (currently amended)A lock for releasably coupling a wear component to a base component ~~in an~~ for excavating operation equipment, the wear and base components including generally aligned holes to form a lock receiving opening, the lock comprising~~[[.]]~~ a body and a locking member rotatably mounted to the body for movement between a release position where the lock

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~~can be withdrawn from the lock receiving opening, and a locking position where the lock is prevented from being withdrawn from the lock receiving opening, the body and the locking member cooperatively defining an outline shape with the locking member in the release position for receipt in the lock receiving opening; the locking member including a head for rotating the locking member between the release and locking positions, and including the head having a pair of opposite ledges for engagement by a tool for axially pulling the lock from the lock receiving opening; and the locking member being secured to the body for rotational movement about an axis between a release position and a locking position, and including a tab that is within the outline shape when the locking member is in the release position and is at least partially outside of the outline shape when the locking member is in the locking position such that at least part of the tab sets opposite an inner surface of the wear component to prevent removal of the lock from the components.~~

Claims 37-42 (canceled).

43. (previously presented) The lock of claim 15 wherein the hole and shank each have a generally square cross-sectional shape.

Claims 44-46. (canceled).

47. (previously presented) A lock for releasably coupling a wear component to an excavator, the lock comprising a body and a locking member secured to the body for movement between a release position and a locking position, the locking member including a shank and the body including a resilient part having a hole for receiving the shank, the hole and the shank having

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conforming polygonal cross sectional shapes, the resilient part being in a first state when the locking member is in the release and locking positions, and the resilient part being in a second state stretched relative to the first state when the locking member is moving between the release and locking positions.

48. (currently amended)A wear assembly for an excavator comprising:

a mounting portion of the excavator;

a wear member shaped to complement the mounting portion for attachment to the excavator, the wear member and mounting portion collectively defining an opening;

a lock for releasably coupling the wear component to the mounting portion of the excavator, the lock comprising a body and a locking member secured to the body for movement rotation between a release position and a locking position, wherein, in the locking position, the body and the locking member bear against a first rearward-facing surface of the opening in the mounting portion and a second forward-facing surface of the opening in the wear member to hold the wear member to the mounting portion, the body and the locking member defining a width between the first and second surfaces wherein the width each includes a bearing surface, wherein the bearing surfaces face in opposite directions, wherein, in the locking position, one of the bearing surfaces engages the wear component and the other of the bearing surfaces engages the mounting portion of the excavator, wherein the bearing surfaces are spaced apart a first distance in the release position and a second distance in the locking position, and wherein the second distance is larger in the locking position than in the release position

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~~than the first distance~~ to tighten the fit of the wear component onto the mounting portion of the excavator.

49. (canceled).

50. (currently amended) A wear assembly for an excavator comprising:

a base component fixed to the excavator and including a nose;

a wear component having a wearable surface and a cavity to receive the nose, the wear and base components including aligned holes to form an opening having a peripheral shape; and

a lock removably received in the opening for releasably holding the wear component to the base component, the lock including a body with a hole having a generally square ~~cross-sectional~~ shape ~~that defines a plurality of flats~~, and a locking member including a shank received into the hole in the body for rotating movement about an axis between a release position and a locking position, the shank cooperating with the ~~flats~~ hole to releasably hold the locking member alternatively in the release position and the locking position, the body and the locking member cooperatively defining an outline shape about the axis with the locking member in the release position so that the lock is received within the peripheral shape of the opening when inserted therein generally in an axial direction, and the locking member being at least partially outside of the outline shape when in the locking position such that at least part of the locking member sets opposite an inner surface formed in the opening to prevent removal of the lock from the opening.

51. (new) A wear assembly for an excavator comprising

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a base component fixed to the excavator and including a nose,

a wear component having a socket to receive the nose, and a hole extending through the wear component to open in the socket, the hole having a peripheral outline, and

a lock for releasably holding the wear component to the base component, the lock including (i) a locking member having a shank and a lateral projection, the locking member being rotatable about a longitudinal axis of the shank between a release position and a locking position with the rotation being free of axial translation, the lateral projection being within the peripheral outline of the hole in the release position and outside of the peripheral outline of the hole in the locking position such that the lateral projection is set between the nose and an interior surface of the wear component, and (ii) a non-rotating resilient member engaging a side of the shank to resist turning of the locking member between the release and locking positions.

52. (new) A wear assembly in accordance with claim 51 wherein the resilient member defines a through-hole through which the shank is received.

53. (new) A wear assembly in accordance with claim 52 wherein the shank and the through-hole have complementary non-circular shapes for alternatively holding the shank in release position or the locking position.

54. (new) A wear assembly in accordance with claim 51 wherein the shank has an end formed with a non-circular configuration adapted to engage a tool for turning the shank.

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55. (new) A wear assembly in accordance with claim 51 wherein the lock has an axial length that is the same in each of the release and locking positions.

56. (new) A lock for holding a wear component to a base component that is fixed to an excavator comprising (i) a locking member having a shank and a lateral projection, the locking member being rotatable about a longitudinal axis of the shank between a release position and a locking position with the rotation being free of axial translation, the lateral projection being within the peripheral outline of a hole in the wear component in the release position and outside of the peripheral outline of the hole in the locking position such that the lateral projection is set between the base component and the wear component, and (ii) a non-rotating resilient member engaging a side of the shank to resist turning of the locking member between the release and locking positions.

57. (new) A wear assembly in accordance with claim 56 wherein the resilient member defines a through-hole through which the shank is received.

58. (new) A wear assembly in accordance with claim 57 wherein the shank and the through-hole have complementary non-circular shapes for alternatively holding the shank in release position or the locking position.

59. (new) A wear assembly in accordance with claim 56 wherein the shank has an end formed with a non-circular configuration adapted to engage a tool for turning the shank.

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60. (new) A wear assembly in accordance with claim 56 wherein the lock has an axial length that is the same in each of the release and locking positions.

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